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determines whether or not registration of capability information is needed. More specifically, RND 41 compares a destination address with a registration address registered in a registration address table 42, and checks whether or not both agree with each other. Also, RND 41 checks whether or not there is a sender address, which is designated to [From] in a mail header, in the capability information table 33. Then, if the destination address agrees with the registration address and there is no sender address in the capability information table 33, RND 41 determines that registration of capability information is needed.---

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully traverse the above Restriction Requirement and submit that it is inappropriate. Applicants first note that each and every one of the claims in the present application relates to capability information. Accordingly, the recitations of each of the independent claims, as well as of various dependent claims are so closely related as to make a Restriction Requirement inappropriate. Accordingly, the Examiner's characterization of claims 11-13 as being drawn to an Internet facsimile apparatus is incomplete. Moreover, at least claim 1 does not recite the "exchanging" feature noted by the Examiner. Thus, the Examiner's categorization is submitted to be inaccurate. For these reasons alone, it is submitted that Restriction is inappropriate and that all the claims in the present application should be examined together.

Moreover, the Restriction Requirement set forth by the Examiner omits one of the two criteria for a proper Restriction Requirement now established by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office policy. As set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, an appropriate explanation must be set forth by the Examiner as to the existence of a "serious burden" if the Restriction Requirement were not required. As the Examiner has not even addressed this criterion, and because the claims of the various groups are so closely related and all pertain to capability information, it is submitted that there is no serious burden on the Examiner in examining all of these claims together. Furthermore, it is submitted that the search for all of the claims includes a significant amount of overlap. Thus, no serious burden would come to bear on the Examiner.

For all of the above reasons, and consistent with the Office policy as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 803, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the position taken in the above-mentioned Official Action and withdraw the Restriction Requirement in the present application.

Accordingly, the Examiner's Restriction Requirement is believed to be improper and has been traversed for the reasons set forth above.

Nevertheless, in order to be fully responsive, Applicants have elected, with traverse, the invention categorized by the Examiner as Group I, comprising claims 1-10 and 14-23 in

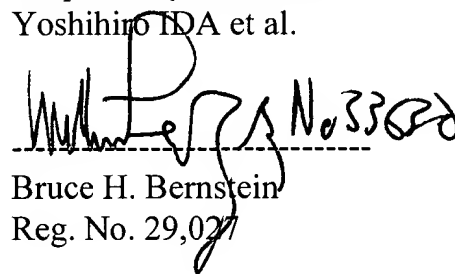
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the event that the Examiner chooses not to reconsider and withdraw the Restriction Requirement.

With the present Response, page 10, line 16 of the specification has been amended to conform to the Examiner's suggestions.

If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this paper, or this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,
Yoshihiro IIDA et al.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bruce H. Bernstein", is written over a horizontal dashed line. To the right of the signature, the text "No. 3362" is handwritten.

Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

April 25, 2003
GREENBLUM & BERNSTEIN, P.L.C.
1950 Roland Clarke Place
Reston, VA 20191
(703) 716-1191

MARKED-UP COPY OF THE SPECIFICATION

--- FIG. 4 is a capability block diagram showing a registration processing section of the mail server according to the embodiment of the present invention. A registration-necessary determining section (hereinafter referred to as RND) 41 analyzes the received E-mail, and determines whether or not registration of capability information is needed. More specifically, RND 41 compares a destination address with a registration address registered in a registration address table 42, and checks whether or not both agree with each other. Also, RND 41 checks whether or not there is a sender address, which is designated to [[Form:]] [From] in a mail header, in the capability information table 33. Then, if the destination address agrees with the registration address and there is no sender address in the capability information table 33, RND 41 determines that registration of capability information is needed.---